

Standoff Holder and Standoff Pad for Ultrasound Probe  
Serial Number: 10/695,988

Remove and Cancel CLAIMS 1 – 12 (listed below)

[00001]

A standoff holder for an ultrasound transducer probe used in diagnostic ultrasound exams or therapeutic ultrasound treatment to insure coupling with a body comprising:

an elongated elastic sock for mounting over a probe comprising a first open end and a second end and an internal aperture extending therethrough, wherein, said first open end includes an expansion collar including a plurality of spaced rigid strips mounted circumferentially about said probe's coupling portion.

[00002]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 wherein:  
the spaced rigid strips are separated by elastic sock forming a plurality of expansion ribs and said elastic sock comprises a series of parallel axial ribs of elastic material.

[00003]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 2 wherein:  
the elastic sock comprises material with decreasing flexibility and increasing rigidity from the second open end to the expansion collar at the first open end.

[00004]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 wherein:

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The rigid strips in the collar comprise a spaced plurality of axial plastic strips.

[00005]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 wherein:  
the cross-sectional configuration of the elastic sock is round.

[00006]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 wherein;  
the cross-sectional shape of the elastic sock conforms to the shape of the probe.

[00007]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 further including:  
a gel insert removably mounted and self-adjusting within the ribbed collar.

[00008]

A standoff holder for an ultrasonic transducer probe used in diagnostic ultrasound exams or therapeutic ultrasonic treatments to insure coupling with a body comprising:  
an elastic sock for mounting over a probe comprising a first open end and a second open end and an internal aperture extending therethrough to accommodate a probe;  
an elastic collar mounted about the probe and extending outwardly from the sock;  
and, a gel insert removably mounted and self-adjusting with the collar in engagement with the probe and extending outwardly therefrom.

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[00009]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 8 wherein;  
the probe includes an acoustic window mounted within the collar in  
contact with the gel insert.

[00010]

A standoff holder for an ultrasonic transducer probe used in diagnostic  
ultrasound exams or therapeutic ultrasonic treatments to insure coupling  
with a body comprising:  
an elastic collar mounted about a probe; and, a gel insert removably  
mounted and self-adjusting within said collar in engagement with the  
probe and extending outwardly therefrom.

[00011]

A method of making an ultrasound standoff insert used to couple an object  
and an ultrasound transducer comprising:  
a pad having the ability to transmit ultrasound waves to and from a body;  
said pad is cut to form an insert by tracing the circumference of a standoff  
holder mounted on a transducer; said tracing provides markings on the  
surface of said pad; and, said markings forms the shape of said standoff  
holder and said transducer, whereby said tracing provides a template that  
is cut therethrough forming said insert which is utilized to couple said  
transducer with said object.

[00012]

A standoff insert for an ultrasonic transducer probe used in diagnostic  
ultrasound exams or therapeutic ultrasonic treatments to insure coupling

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with a body comprising:

a gel insert which is removably mounted and self-adjusting within a collar  
in engagement with a probe and extending outwardly therefrom.

**NEW CLAIMS 13-20**

**Please add NEW Claims 13 -20 as follows:**

[000013]

A standoff holder for an ultrasound transducer probe used in diagnostic ultrasound exams or therapeutic ultrasound treatment to insure coupling with a body comprising:  
an elongated elastic sock for mounting over a probe including an acoustic window comprising a first open end and a second end and an internal aperture extending therethrough, wherein,  
said first open end includes an expansion collar including a plurality of spaced rigid strips mounted circumferentially about said probe including said acoustic window.

[00014]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 wherein:  
the spaced rigid strips are separated by elastic sock forming a plurality of expansion ribs and said elastic sock comprises a series of parallel axial ribs of elastic material.

[00015]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 2 wherein:  
the elastic sock comprises material with decreasing flexibility and increasing rigidity from the second open end to the expansion collar at the first open end.

[00016]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 wherein:  
The rigid strips in the collar comprise a spaced plurality of axial plastic strips.

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[00017]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 wherein:

the cross-sectional configuration of the elastic sock is round when unmounted on a probe.

[00018]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 wherein;

the cross-sectional shape of the elastic sock conforms to the shape of the probe when mounted.

[00019]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 further including:

a gel insert removably mounted and self-adjusting within the ribbed collar.

[00020]

A standoff holder for an ultrasonic transducer probe used in diagnostic ultrasound exams or therapeutic ultrasonic treatments to insure coupling with a body comprising:

an elastic collar for mounting over the external surface of a probe having a first open end and a second open end and an internal aperture extending therethrough to accommodate the shape of said probe including an acoustic window on said probe;

said elastic collar mounted about said probe and extending outwardly from said acoustic window; and, a gel insert removably mounted and self-adjusting with said collar in engagement with said probe's acoustic window and extending outwardly therefrom.

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**Request Under MPEP 707.07(j) form is attached asking for the examiner to help construct 1 or more claims if applicant's claims are not suitable.**

**THE APPLICATION IS IN PROPER ORDER.**

**END OF RESPONSE to Notice of NON-Compliant AMMENDMENT**

If for any reason this application is not to be believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicants respectfully request the constructive assistance and suggestions of the examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. 2173.02 and 707.07 in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Very respectfully,

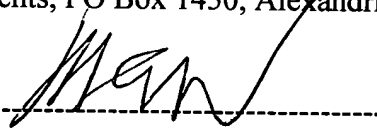
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Certificate of Mailing: I certify that on the date below this document and referenced attachments, if any will be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450"

Date Sept 07, 2005

  
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Dr. Martin E. Wendelken